connections

First United Methodist Church of Dothan

Dr. James B. Sanders III, Senior Pastor | September 2, 2021

Dear Friends,

I cannot tell you what a joy it has been to be a part of this amazing church for the last 3.5 hours! That's the amount of time I've been in the office, learning from staff, planning worship, and meeting those of you who have popped your heads in the door. I can already tell the warmth and love in this place.

I have the selfish wish to take off this face mask and greet each of you with a smile and a hug, but in these strange COVID times, you'll just have to hear my heart celebrate joining with you in ministry for these next few months. I'm amazed to hear of all of the creative ways you have been sharing the love of Christ during these recent times, even as it must have been hard to adapt to this changing world. Personally, I've held onto the beautiful words of Psalm 51:12, "Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit."

The joy of your salvation. Don't you long for that again in your life? Don't we ache for that deep joy that overcomes all fear and anxiety? Don't we want that for our children, our neighbors, our world? Oh friends, the joy that comes from knowing that Jesus the Christ came to save the world…we all need the restoration of that joy. I believe in the promise that where two or three are gathered, Jesus is there and we encounter him! So let me invite you this Sunday to come and know that joy from the Lord as we worship together. Invite someone who needs to know that joy to come and take the sacrament of Holy Communion and taste and see that the Lord is good!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is the best news, and this world needs to hear it. You need to hear it. May the joy of salvation be ours as we are restored and renewed together.

See you Sunday, if not before!

Yours,
Robin

In the News

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays, 10:00-10:45 am

Sunday School is available for all ages, children, tweens, youth, and adults. We would love for you to join one of our classes.

CHILDREN

BLAST TIME

We will have three times for the same program; so, you can choose what works best for your family!

Sunday, September 5
1st-4th grade only

- 5:00-6:00 pm

Wednesday, September 8
4P-4th grade

- 3:30-4:45 pm
- 5:30-6:30 pm

TWEENS

Beginning September 15, our Tween programming will have a new name: ***SWAG – Saved With Amazing Grace***!

There will be 3 opportunities (same program, different times) to choose from each week as we draw closer to Christ.

Sunday, September 5

- 5:00-6:00 pm

Wednesday, September 8

- 3:30-4:45 pm
- 5:30-6:30 pm

The Church Office will be closed Monday, Sept. 6, in observance of Labor Day.

YOUTH

Sunday, September 5

- Youth Bible Study 6-7:00 pm

Wednesday, September 8

- Youth Small Groups 6-7:00 pm

JOYS & CONCERNS

Our Sympathy to:
~ Mary Kaye, Dan, Ben and Timothy Bailey due to the death of Mary Kaye's mother, Betty Hendricks, who died August 27.

In the Hospital:
~ Cleve Creel

Released from Hospital:
~ Judy Kingry
~ Bob Allen
~ Molly White
~ Margaret Gibbs

Congratulations:
~ Noah and Rachel O'Brian on the birth of their son, James Leonard O'Brian, born August 17. Grandparents are Alan and Sarah Purvis.

This week we are especially praying for the ways our church family is reaching out through The Harbor, washing the clothing of the homeless and underserved in our area.

FINANCE

Generosity Goals
July Giving - $ 145,956
July YTD Giving - $ 1,321,392
July YTD Anticipated - $ 1,390,242

MEMORIALS

Sally Williams Avant
Brenda & Bobby Bottoms
Jim Dayton
Progressor's Sunday School Class
Bobby Sirmon
1978 DHS friends of Katharine Forrester
Bevis Eberhart Browning Walker & Stewart
Jim Whaley's Tires, Inc.
Phi Mu Sisters of Katharine's
Susan & Richard Blumberg
Jim & Jo Ellen Boone, Joe, Brittany, Sara, Virginia, and Callahan Nelson
Brenda & Bobby Bottoms
Nagel & John Byrd
Grady Norrell Family
Bill & Frances Castlen
James & Jan Coleman
Ray & Tillie Dempster
Kathy & Tim Gannon
Andrea Granger
Ruth Horn
Evelyn King
Jerry McAllister
Brenda & Don Mendheim
Imogene Mixson
Pam & Jim Paxton
Susan Price
Gloria Sorrells
Lester Stewart
William & Mitzi Watson
Cynthia Wells
Beverly Youngblood
Wiley Sprayberry
Progressor's Sunday School Class
The Dothan Career Center Family
Dewey & Martha Formby
Pervis & Susan Hester
Hayne & Cindy Hollis
Jimmy Sprayberry
William & Mitzi Watson
Sammy Trotter
Dothan High School Class of 1962

Join us for Holy Communion this Sunday. You can join from home by having juice and bread available while watching the livestream.

Communion packs may also be picked up in the church office during regular office hours.

B.L.E.S.S. Sermon Series

SEPTEMBER 12:
Beyond Random Acts

SEPTEMBER 19:
Prayer Changes Things

SEPTEMBER 26:
Listening = Loving

OCTOBER 3:
The Power of the Table

OCTOBER 10:
Acting in Love

OCTOBER 17:
God's Continuing Story

B.L.E.S.S Adult Small Group Study

Join us as we study the book ***BLESS: 5 Everyday Ways to Love Your Neighbor and Change the World*** in a small group setting and explore the idea of being a better disciple through loving our neighbors.

There are several adult small group opportunities available. To join a group, please visit fumcdothan.org/bless or email ryan@fumcdothan.org.

Children BLAST Time

BLAST Time, our children's Bible study for ages 4 through 4th grade is an opportunity for children to hear Bible stories, see puppet shows, and participate in art activities or games related to the Bible story of the week.

Tweens S.W.A.G.

S.W.A.G. (Saved with Amazing Grace) for 5th and 6th graders will begin on September 15th, and end on December 8th. We would love to have you join us!

Youth

Youth studies and small groups have begun! Join us on Sunday or Wednesday nights, and for breakfast on Tuesday mornings.

Suppers

Join us for a family supper before your small groups on Wednesday evening.

Click to Learn More

UMW Meeting

Tuesday, September 7, 11:45 am
In Fellowship Hall

Speaker: Betty Helms

Lunch will be served; make your reservation by calling the church office, 793-3555, or by sending an email to betty@fumcdothan.org.

Board Meeting: 11 am in Room 165

The **Sanctuary Worship Team** NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

- **Ushers**
  (contact Sam Vann at 701-2222)
- **Altar Guild**
  (contact Denise Hawke at 685-7349)
- **Flower Guild**
  (contact Leanne Todd at 618-2662)

Menu for Wednesday, September 15

Adult Menu $8	Children's Menu $5
Fried or Baked Catfish Filets	Fried Fish Nuggets
Cheese Grits	Cheese Grits
Green Beans	Green Beans
Coleslaw	Cheese Biscuit
Cheese Biscuit	Banana Pudding
Banana Pudding	Beverage (tea or lemonade)
Beverage (tea or lemonade)	

Family Max: $24 (4 or more living in same household)
Children 3 and under: Free

STARTING POINT

{New} 3-Week Class for Questions & Conversations Surrounding the Ministry of FUMC

Sept 12 - Why United Methodist?
Sept 19 - Discipleship
Sept 26 - Service

For details, contact Phil Maynard or Sean Peters.
phil@fumcdothan.org / sean@fumcdothan.org